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18 July 1977

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT : Imagery Analysis Support to National Photographic Interpretation Center

1. We have performed a systematic review of our projected fall research program in an effort to identify specific areas where we could provide support to NPIC for the August-January period. Our review was centered on the types of analytical support detailed by John Hicks in his memorandum, the availability for OIA analysts qualified to fill these positions (by availability I mean only that the individuals concerned will be on duty during the appropriate period), and our judgements concerning minimum levels of OIA staffing required to support high priority DDI production programs. As a result of our review, we believe we could provide NPIC [] without seriously jeopardizing our in-house analytical capabilities or DDI production programs. (There is still a question from our perspective of whether these analysts will be more effectively utilized in NPIC than they would be here). [] these analysts are ground forces specialists and [] a naval specialist. The effects of providing these analysts to NPIC on a temporary basis are outlined in the attachment.

2. You should also know that [] percent of the total time implicit in the NPIC request is to be devoted to support of the new basic imagery analysis course that they are preparing. Because the course will benefit our analysts, I made a commitment several months ago to provide [] primary instructors for the [] and [] back-up instructors for military topics. Thus, in a real sense, we have already contributed to the need for imagery analysis support identified by NPIC.

3. There are three basic reasons why we cannot provide additional assistance. First, in some instances--like command and control--we simply do not have analysts who meet the NPIC specifications. Second, a large number of our analysts that do have the experience required by NPIC are presently working against important DDI analytical programs, which in turn support efforts like SALT, MBFR, inputs for NIE 11-3/8, and the IIM on civil defense. The timing is particularly bad in the case of our strategic missile

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people and the preparation of 11-3/8. We simply cannot significantly degrade our capabilities in these important areas, even on a temporary basis. Third, for several of the positions identified in the NPIC memorandum, OIA has only

analyst.

Sending these one-of-a-kind experienced analysts would not only strip OIA of its analytical capability in these areas but would also drastically reduce the effectiveness of the newer analysts. A more specific treatment of why we cannot offer more assistance in the basic categories of missiles, air, naval, ground forces and command and control are outlined in the attachment.

3. We discovered upon close examination of the NPIC request that percent of the total time identified is for basic and periodic reporting in support of the National Tasking Plan. It is interesting to note that due to resource difficulties experienced by the various agencies in the last two years, the number of community requirements for basic (third phase) reports was reduced. This indicates the National Reporting Program has a certain amount of flexibility, in terms of the necessity of certain requirements as well as completion dates. In fact, OIA which has community responsibility for non-military industries, postponed 19 reports until FY-1978 because of its involvement with the problem. We have not heard one complaint about this postponement. We therefore believe, even more strongly than we did before we knew the full details of the NPIC request, that adjustments in reporting requirements could go a long way in helping to solve the temporary problem.

Noel E. Firth
Director
Imagery Analysis

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